

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

ROUTING SLIP

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI				
2	DDCI		✓		
3	EXDIR				
4	D/ICS				
5	DDI		✓		
6	DDA				
7	DDO		✓		
8	DDS&T				
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/EEO				
14	D/Pers				
15	D/OLL				
16	C/PAO				
17	SA/IA		✓		
18	AO/DCI				
19	C/IPD/OIS				
20	W/O/USSR-E		✓		
21					
22					
		SUSPENSE _____ Date _____			

Remarks

(Info pending designation
of attendees)

3637 (10-81)

Executive Secretary

10/24/83

Date

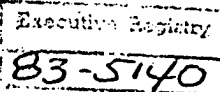
L-117 NSDD-75
XF B-223B



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 21, 1983

~~SECRET/NODIS~~

TO :

OVP	- Mr. Donald P. Gregg	S/S 8332367
NSC	- Mr. Robert M. Kimball	S/S 8332368
CIA ✓		
Commerce	- Mrs. Helen Robbins	S/S 8332370
Defense	- COL John Stanford	S/S 8332371
JCS	- LTC Dennis Stanley	S/S 8332372
USIA	- Ms. Theresa Collins	S/S 8332373

25X1

SUBJECT: SIG on Soviet Nationalities Policy

A Senior Interdepartmental Group meeting will be held on Monday, November 7, 1983 to review a draft National Security Decision Directive concerning U.S. Policy towards Soviet Ethnic and National Groups. The draft has been reviewed extensively at the working level by all agencies over the past year and approved. The purpose of the SIG meeting will be to endorse the draft and transmit it to the NSC (draft attached). The meeting will be chaired by Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Under Secretary for Political Affairs. The meeting will be held in the State Department in the Deputy Secretary's Conference Room (Room 7219) at 11:00 a.m. Due to space limitations, invitees are requested to limit their participation to principals (or designate) plus one. Please call Sheila Lopez (632-5804) with the names of your agency's participants by COB Friday, October 28.

Charles Hill
Executive Secretary

Attachment:
As stated.

~~SECRET/NODIS~~

DECL: OADR



SECRET/SENSITIVE

Proposed National Security Decision
Directive Number _____

US POLICY ON SOVIET ETHNIC AND NATIONAL GROUPS

As set forth in NSDD-75, US policy toward the USSR is to aim at: Containing and over time reversing Soviet expansionism, encouraging change within the Soviet Union toward a more pluralistic system, and reaching agreements with the Soviet Union that protect and enhance US interests and are consistent with the principles of strict reciprocity and mutual interest. As part of that policy, the USG shall pursue a rejuvenated effort to understand and to encourage ethnic and national freedoms within the Soviet Union.

USG objectives are:

1. To encourage changes within the Soviet Union that foster diversity, pluralism, decentralization and democracy.
2. To promote a more accurate understanding of the nature and actions of the Soviet Union by drawing attention to its colonial and expansionist characteristics, and by undermining the notion that the expansion of communist rule is an irreversible phenomenon.
3. To create an institutional structure to strengthen and sustain our capabilities for understanding and influencing Soviet ethnic and national developments.

The USG objectives set forth above can be served by increasing our presence and activities in the USSR. Such an increase, however, could entail a detrimental increase in Soviet presence and activities in the U.S. Consistent with NSDD-75 and our overall foreign policy, we should work to increase our presence and activities in the USSR if it is determined that the benefits are not exceeded by the drawbacks. To realize the above objectives, the USG should develop an action program. This program will be based on the reaffirmation of our commitment to the rights and legitimate interests of the various ethnic and national groups under the administration of the Soviet Union, including their rights to practice their religions, to provide traditional education to their children, to emigrate and, as appropriate, to enjoy national independence.

The USG shall:

1. Increase its capabilities for understanding and ameliorating developments within the Soviet Union adversely affecting ethnic and national groups. As part of this effort, a permanent Soviet Nationalities Interagency Group chaired by the State Department shall be established. That group shall have responsibility for encouraging the allocation of

adequate financial and institutional resources to Soviet ethnic and national group developments. This shall include the establishment of an Interagency Career Management Committee for Soviet Nationality Specialists, whose purpose shall be to examine ways to overcome the critical shortage of USG analysts and linguists qualified in Russian and Soviet nationality languages. The Soviet Nationalities Interagency Group shall also study ways to increase USG public affairs funding to enhance international awareness of Soviet ethnic and national issues, and shall participate as appropriate in other USG programs and decisionmaking affecting US policy on Soviet ethnic and national groups. The Soviet Nationalities Interagency Group shall also continue to study the advisability of creating a Center for the Study of Soviet Nationalities which shall be privately run, but funded by the USG.

2. Increase its ability to broadcast radio programs to Soviet ethnic and national groups. Within the context of the decision to modernize and upgrade VOA, RFE and RL facilities, and in addition to other actions, the USG shall assign high priority to increasing the number of hours of non-Russian language broadcasting and the number of Soviet languages in which the radios broadcast. In accordance with the priorities that from time to time will be established by the Special Planning Group for Public Diplomacy with the assistance of the Soviet Nationalities Interagency Group, efforts shall be made to reduce the shortages in qualified linguists and other staff. Renewed consideration shall be given to funding new broadcast sites, strengthening existing transmitter sites and expanding all technical means. Budgetary allocations to existing operating agencies shall reflect their high priority as national security interests.
3. Otherwise increase the open flow of information into the USSR. The US shall facilitate the open flow of information into the USSR by employing additional available means such as networks for the distribution of newspapers, books, and cassette tapes.
4. Continue to recognize the independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.
5. Increase UN activities. The USG shall take appropriate steps in the UN, including the UN Human Rights Commission, to highlight the contradictions between Soviet propaganda and practices. These steps may include raising the issue of Soviet nationalities in statements and debate, especially in the context of Soviet professions of support for self-determination and decolonization.

6. Work with the appropriate public bodies, such as the CSCE Commission, Amnesty International, and other interested religious and political organizations to ensure that adequate attention is paid to Soviet ethnic and national groups at the various human rights meetings that these groups regularly attend.
7. Review costs and benefits of establishing a larger U.S. official presence in the USSR. As a means of increasing our capabilities regarding developments in the non-Russian areas of the Soviet Union, and consistent with NSDD-75, a Consulate in Kiev could make an important contribution. The USG will also give active consideration to the desirability of opening a Consulate in the Muslim areas of the Soviet Union.
8. Examine new Cultural, Informational, and Educational Exchanges. As part of our efforts under NSDD-75 to expand US-Soviet exchanges, the Soviet Nationalities Interagency Group shall devote particular attention to those exchanges involving non-Russian areas of the USSR.
9. Increase Public statements on Soviet abuse of ethnic and national groups. The Soviet government's mistreatment of various ethnic and national groups shall, as appropriate, become a more frequent theme of USG public statements. Such statements dealing with that theme, whether prepared for international radio broadcasts, official speeches, or written proclamations, shall be cast in terms of universally accepted norms, especially those norms incorporated in international agreements to which the Soviet Union is a party and those recognized in the Soviet Constitution. Such public statements may include references to:
 - The plight of the many Soviet human rights activists whose persecution by the Soviet authorities is directly attributable to the efforts of these persons to assert their national traditions,
 - The colonial aspects of Soviet rule over non-Russian peoples,
 - The problems of religion in the Soviet Union.

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